

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 06844 132217Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /087 W

-----031701 132225Z /63

O 132110Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6573

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORIYY

AMMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6844

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SHUM,ET, SO, OREP (TSONGAS, PAUL AND BONKER, DON)

SUBJECT: MENGISTU ON CROSSING SOMALI BORDER, OAU NEGOTIATIONS,
NON-ALIGNMENT.

1. FOLLOWING FORTHRIGHT DISCUSSIONS AT MOFA MORNING DEC 13
WITH CONGRESSMAN TSONGAS ON ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND ETHIO-
US RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN MENGISTU AGREED RECEIVE CODEL TSONGAS/BONKER
EVENING SAME DAY. (CONGRESSMAN BONKER'S ARRIVAL HAD BEEN
DELAYED BY TEMPORARY CLOSING ADDIS AIRPORT DUE SOVIET
PLANE'S BEING STUCK ON RUNWAY.) AT MEETING ATTENDED BY
BOTH CONGRESSMEN, CHARGE' AND SALTER, MENGISTU STATED
CATEGORICALLY, "WE HAVE NO OBJECTIVE OF CROSSING OUR BORDER
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ONCE WE HAVE THROWN OUT SOMALIS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO REPEAT
SAME MISTAKE SOMALIS MADE." MADE POINT OAU DOES NOT HAVE
MILITARY FORCE SO NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT IT TO IMPOSE
POLITICAL SOLUTION. MENGISTU ALSO REAFFIRMED POLICY OF
NON-ALIGNMENT AND DESIRE FOR FRIENDS IN WEST AS WELL AS EAST.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING CURRENT VIOLENCE IN

ETHIOPIA MENGISTU SAID HE WOULD NOT HIDE SITUATION. "CERTAIN MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN ON THE SPOT", BUT HE INDICATED THEY ARE NECESSARY TO DEFEND REVOLUTION IN PERIOD WHEN ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE BEING ASSASSINATED.

3. EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGED BY THIS LATEST EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE EPMG ATTACHES TO US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS.

4. MENGISTU HAD A LOT TO SAY ABOUT REVOLUTION AND RELATIONS WITH USSR WHOSE COURAGE HE BELIEVES US SHOULD ADMIRE. FULLER ANALYSIS AND REPORTING WILL FOLLOW.

5. EMBASSY NAIROBI SHOULD ALERT LOCAL PRESS THAT CODEL WILL WISH TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE ON ETHIOPIA SEGMENT OF VISIT AFTER ARRIVAL. PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD BE WELCOME.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PBOR, SHUM, OREP, ET, SO, (BONKER, DON), (TSONGAS, PAUL)
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